

## Getting Started

1. What are some of your family traditions that others might find odd or different?
2. What tradition have you picked up from others? Why did you pick them up?
3. How do you make new Christians/attendees of Ross feel welcome?
4. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's sermon did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.

## Digging Deeper

### 5. Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 65:

**Q. It is through faith alone that we share in Christ and all his benefits: where then does that faith come from?**

A. The Holy Spirit produces it in our hearts<sup>1</sup> by the preaching of the holy gospel,<sup>2</sup> and confirms it by the use of the holy sacraments.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> John 3:5; 1 Cor. 2:10-14; Eph. 2:8 <sup>2</sup> Rom. 10:17; 1 Pet. 1:23-25 <sup>3</sup> Matt. 28:19-20; 1 Cor. 10:16

Does this mean that our faith is a work of God?

What role do the sacraments play in our faith?

6. Read Psalm 32. Why does Paul quote this Psalm?
7. Read Luke 18:9-14. What message does this teach about righteousness and faith alone? Who has faith in himself and who has faith in God? Who is justified and who is not?
8. Read Genesis 12:1-4 and 15:1-6. How was Abraham able to remain so trusting? Why does Paul talk about Abraham?

## Application

9. Sola fide – by faith alone. Justification by faith alone was an idea that kick started the Reformation. We cannot earn God's favor, purchase it, or be born into it. It comes through faith alone in the atoning work of Jesus Christ. Do you believe that Jesus died for your sins? Have you put your faith in God?

## Praying Scripture

### Psalm 32

- 1 Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,  
whose sin is covered.
- 2 Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity,  
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.
- 3 For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away  
through my groaning all day long.
- 4 For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;  
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Selah
- 5 I acknowledged my sin to you,  
and I did not cover my iniquity;  
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,"  
and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah
- 6 Therefore let everyone who is godly  
offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found;  
surely in the rush of great waters,  
they shall not reach him.
- 7 You are a hiding place for me;  
you preserve me from trouble;  
you surround me with shouts of deliverance. Selah
- 8 I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;  
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.
- 9 Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding,  
which must be curbed with bit and bridle,  
or it will not stay near you.
- 10 Many are the sorrows of the wicked,  
but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the Lord.
- 11 Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O righteous,  
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

## Ross Community Reformed Church

Pastor Shawn Gerbers · February 19, 2017

### The Gospel: Class is in Session

#### “Sola Fide”

And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin."

Romans 4:5-8

- **Do our \_\_\_\_\_ count us as \_\_\_\_\_?**
  
- **Do our \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ count us as \_\_\_\_\_?**
  
- **Our \_\_\_\_\_ comes from \_\_\_\_\_ – sola fide – and engrafts us to the family of God.**

Topics: Faith, justification, family of God